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11036 U.S. PTO
09/805538
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Hideo ANDO, et al.

SERIAL NO: New Application

GAU:

FILED: Herewith

EXAMINER:

FOR: OPTICAL INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEM USING OPTICAL ABERRATIONS AND INFORMATION MEDIUM HAVING RECORDING LAYER PROTECTED BY TRANSPARENT LAYER HAVING THICKNESS IRREGULARITY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE/RELATED CASE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:
Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

- ☒ The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- ☐ A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

- ☐ Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- ☐ A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

- ☐ Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- ☐ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

- ☒ Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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IRREGULARITY

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

Reference AO (2000-113494) on Form PTO-1449:

This reference discloses a technique of detecting unevenness in the thickness of a protection layer on the basis of disturbance in the intensity pattern which is caused when spherical aberration and astigmatic aberration occur at the same time. However, a detecting operation is often adversely affected by the optical detection system and thus cannot be completed with precision as high as in the present invention. Furthermore, this reference does not teach anything about the maximum thickness unevenness that is allowable when a spherical aberration correction is made to a single-sided double-layered RAM disc.

Reference AP (2000-076665) on Form PTO-1449:

This reference discloses a technique of measuring the thickness of a protection layer by use of a difference between the focus detection signals of light beams reflected on the surface of the protection layer (transparent substrate) and the recording surface. With this technology, the detection sensitivity on the order of micrometers, at which the present invention is aimed, cannot be achieved. Furthermore, the reference does not teach the range of thickness unevenness that is allowable when a single-sided double-layered RAM disc is subjected to a servo control to correct a spherical aberration.

Reference AW on Form PTO-1449:

This reference is referred to in the body of the specification.